



STATE OF WEST VIRGINIA
OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
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CONSUMER PROTECTION DIVISION
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Press Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Attorney General McGraw Asks Court to Find Meat Seller in Contempt for Refusing to Refund Consumers and more.

Attorney General Darrell McGraw filed a petition asking the Circuit Court of Kanawha County to hold a Nitro man in contempt of court for refusing to pay consumers refunds and for refusing to relinquish the trucks he had used in the illegal sales of meat products door-to-door.

McGraw's office originally sued Bill Parsons of Nitro, West Virginia, and his business, "Mr. Meats," in December of 2005, alleging that the business had been selling meat products door-to-door in West Virginia neighborhoods without food-handling permits. Consumers complained that when they opened the packages to cook the meat, it was of poor quality or completely inedible. In some instances, sellers misrepresented the kinds of meat being sold, and delivered a product of much lower quality than what consumers had been led to believe they were buying. The company also failed to notify consumers of their three-day right to cancel home solicitation sales and refused to refund any money to consumers who complained or tried to cancel the sales. Moreover, Mr. Meats would always threaten to charge consumers an unlawful \$50 returned-check fee.

In late January of this year, Parsons agreed to settle the lawsuit by agreeing to pay \$15,000 in civil penalties and restitution for consumers, to submit a list of all vehicles he still owned from the meat-selling business, and to sign over titles for all such vehicles to the Attorney General's office. According to the Agreed Order and Judgement entered by Circuit Judge Jennifer Bailey Walker, Parsons was ordered to pay off his civil penalties in monthly installments of no less than \$500.00, beginning on February 15, 2008. Parsons was also ordered to deliver fully-executed titles for trucks used in the unlawful scheme by February 1 and February 8, 2008, respectively. All of these dates have passed without any effort by Parsons to comply with the court order.

The Petition asks that Parsons be held in contempt, and that he be incarcerated until he pays the full \$15,000.00 in a lump sum, and until he delivers clear titles to all vehicles left over from the Mr. Meats business.

If you have any questions about this matter or want to report a problem regarding Mr. Meats, please call Attorney General McGraw's Consumer Hotline at 1-800-368-8808 or 304-558-8986.

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